

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6 thru 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 23, as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:
2 at least one network unit having a variable Internet protocol (IP) address and
3 unique identification information;
4 a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server responsive to a request from
5 said at least one network unit for assigning said variable IP address to said at least one
6 network unit for a predetermined period of time; and
7 an agent server[[,]] including a communication unit for receiving said unique
8 identification information and said variable IP address from said at least one network
9 unit, and for transferring said unique identification information and said variable IP
10 address, and for receiving from a user unique identification information of a network unit
11 selected by the user, a database connected to said communication unit for receiving and
12 storing said variable IP address and said unique identification information transferred
13 from said ~~at least one network~~ communication unit, and a control unit connected to said
14 communication unit and to said database for receiving from the user via said
15 communication unit said unique identification information of said ~~at least one~~ network
16 unit ~~from a~~ selected by the user over a network, for searching said database for said
17 variable IP address of said at least one network unit on the basis of the ~~received~~ unique

18 identification information received from the user, and for enabling the user to gain access
19 to said ~~at least one~~ selected network unit in accordance with results of the searching of
20 said database.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim [[2]] 1,
2 wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet
3 address of said at least one network unit, an identifier of said at least one network unit,
4 and a search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein
2 said control unit receives said at least one of said Ethernet address, said identifier of said
3 at least one network unit, and said search keyword from the user over said network and
4 via said communication unit, compares said at least one of said Ethernet address, said
5 identifier of said at least one network unit, and said search keyword with data stored in
6 said database to produce a match, and searches for said variable IP address when the
7 match is produced.

1 5. (Original) The network system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said data stored
2 in said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1,
2 wherein said data stored in said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a network system having a
2 dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one
3 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) requesting a variable Internet protocol (IP) address for said at least one
5 network unit from said DHCP server when said at least one network unit powers up;

6 (b) transmitting the requested variable IP address from said DHCP server to said at
7 least one network unit;

8 ~~[[a)]]~~ (c) storing unique identification information and ~~[[a]]~~ the variable IP
9 address of said at least one network unit in a database in said agent server;

10 ~~[[b)]]~~ (d) receiving data at said agent server from a user over a network,
11 comparing said received data with said unique identification information stored in said
12 database, and searching for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit when
13 said comparing produces a match; and

14 ~~[[c)]]~~ (e) connecting the user to said at least one network unit having the searched
15 variable IP address.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising
2 the steps, between steps (b) and (c), of receiving said unique identification information

3 and said variable IP address of said at least one network unit at said agent server, and
4 transferring said unique identification information and said variable IP address of said at
5 least one network unit to said database in said agent server.

1 9. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said unique
2 identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one
3 network unit, an identifier of said at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said
4 variable IP address of said at least one network unit.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said data
2 received in step [(b)] (d) comprises at least one of said Ethernet address, said identifier
3 and said search keyword.

1 11. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein data stored in
2 said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 12. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein data stored in
2 said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising a dynamic host
2 configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one network unit

3 having a variable Internet protocol (IP) address assigned to said at least one network unit
4 by said DHCP server, and unique identification information, said agent server[[,]]
5 comprising:

6 a communication unit for receiving, from each said at least one network unit, said
7 variable IP address assigned to said at least one network unit by said DHCP server and
8 said unique identification for each said at least one network unit, and for receiving from a
9 user unique identification information for a network unit selected by the user;

10 storing means connected to said communication unit for receiving and storing said
11 variable IP address and said unique identification information for each said at least one
12 network unit;

13 ~~receiving means for receiving, from a user, unique identification information for a~~
14 ~~network unit selected by the user;~~

15 ~~searching means~~ a control unit connected to said communication unit and to said
16 storing means for receiving the unique identification information for the network unit
17 selected by the user, and for searching said storing means for said variable IP address of
18 said selected network unit on the basis of the unique identification information received
19 from the user[[;]], and ~~enabling means~~ responsive to results produced by said searching
20 ~~means~~ for enabling the user to gain access to said selected network unit.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein
2 said storing means comprises a database ~~and a communication unit~~, said communication

3 ~~unit receiving said unique identification information and said variable IP address, and~~
4 transferring said received unique identification information and said variable IP address
5 to said database.

1 15. (Original) The network system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein said
2 unique identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at
3 least one network unit, an identifier of said at least one network unit, and a search
4 keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim 15, wherein
2 said ~~receiving means comprises a control unit which~~ receives, from the user, at least one
3 of an Ethernet address, an identifier and a search keyword corresponding to the network
4 unit selected by the user.

1 17. (Original) The network system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein data
2 stored in said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The network system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein
2 said ~~receiving means comprises a control unit which~~ receives, from the user, at least one
3 of an Ethernet address, an identifier and a search keyword corresponding to the network
4 unit selected by the user.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a network system having a
2 dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, an agent server, and at least one
3 network unit, said method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) requesting a variable Internet protocol (IP) address for said at least one
5 network unit from said DHCP server when said at least one network unit powers up;

6 (b) transmitting the requested variable IP address from said DHCP server to said at
7 least one network unit;

8 [[a)] (c) storing unique identification information and [[a)] the variable IP
9 address of each said at least one network unit in a database in said agent server;

10 [[b)] (d) receiving at said agent server, from a user, unique identification
11 information corresponding to a network unit selected by the user;

12 [[c)] (e) comparing said unique identification information received from the
13 user with said unique identification information stored in said database;

14 [[d)] (f) determining said variable IP address of said network unit selected by
15 the user when step [[c)] (e) produces a match; and

16 [[e)] (g) connecting the user to said selected network unit having the determined
17 variable IP address.

1 20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said unique
2 identification information includes at least one of an Ethernet address of said at least one

3 network unit, an identifier of said at least one network unit, and a search keyword for said
4 variable IP address of said at least one network unit.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the
2 unique identification information received from the user in step ~~[(b)]~~ (d) comprises at
3 least one of said Ethernet address, said identifier and said search keyword.

1 22. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said data stored
2 in said database is updated at regular time intervals.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein the
2 unique identification information received from the user in step ~~[(b)]~~ (d) comprises at
3 least one of an Ethernet address, an identifier and a search keyword.

1 24. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 19, wherein said data stored
2 in said database is updated at regular time intervals.